

REMARKS

1. Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended Claims 2, 4-5, 13, 16-17, 21, 23, 31, 34-35 and 42; Claims 1, 3, 6-12, 14-15, 18-20, 22, 24-30, 32-33, and 36-41 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 2, 4-5, 13, 16-17, 21, 23, 31, 34-35 and 42 are pending in the application.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 14, 19, 32, 36 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. In order to expedite allowance of this application, claims 14, 19, 32, 36 and 42 has been cancelled rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

3. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 14-15, 18-20, 22, 32-33, 36-37 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,719,498 to Colson (hereinafter, Colson). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3, 14-15, 18-20, 22, 32-33, 36-37 and 41 rendering the rejection of those claims moot.

4. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner rejected claims 6-12, 24-30 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colson, in view of obvious design choices. In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled the claims 6-12, 24-30 and 38-40. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

5. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 2, 4-5, 13, 16-17, 21, 23, 31, 24-35 and 42. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 2, 21 and

42 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims.

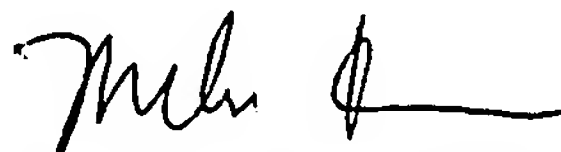
Claims 4-5, 13, 16 and 17 depend from amended claim 2 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 2. Claims 23, 31, and 34-35 depend from amended claim 21 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 21. Therefore, the allowance of claims 2, 4-5, 13, 16-17, 21, 23, 31, 24-35 and 42 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: September 28, 2007

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